

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 BIB-01 (ISO) W

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R 300615Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MPOL CH US

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRC PRESS ON SCHLESINGER VISIT, SINO-US MILITARY

TIES

1. HONG KONG'S PRC-OWNED HSIN WAN PAO, IN A SEPTEMBER 28 COMMENTARY ON THE SCHLESINGER VISIT, IS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT PEKING'S APPROVAL OF SCHLESINGER'S HARD LINE VIS-A VIS THE SOVIETS DOES NOT EXTEND TO PRC SUPPORT FOR HIS ALLEGED VIEWS ON CLOSER SINO-US MILITARY TIES. SPECIFICALLY, THE COMMENTARY NOTES SCHLESINGER HAS CONSIDERED GIVING WEAPONS TO CHINA AND STATES "CHINA DOES NOT WANT THIS." IT ADDS THAT SCHLESINGER HAS EVEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF A "SEMI-ALLIANCE," POINTEDLY STATING THAT THIS IS CONTRARY TO CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR NON-ALIGNMENT AND OPPOSITION TO SOVIET-AMERICAN HEGEMONISM. THESE COMMENTS, REFLECTING PEKING'S UNWILLINGNESS TO DRAW

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CLOSER MILITARILY TO THE US, ARE SIMILAR TO OBSERVATIONS BY

CODEL PRICE, CARRIED IN AN APRIL TA KUNG PAO REPORT, THAT THE PRC DOES NOT WANT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE (HK 4795).

2. NONETHELESS, THE COMMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS THE COMMON CONCERN THAT CHINA AND SCHLESINGER SHARE ABOUT A "NEW HITLER" AND A "NEW MUNICH," I.E., GENERAL OPPOSITION TO SOVIET HEGEMONISM. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT SCHLESINGER'S SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING WITH YEH CHIEN-YING AND NCNA'S IDENTIFICATION OF YEH AS BOTH VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMISSION AND DEFENSE MINISTER ARE INDICATIVE OF THE HIGH REGARD ATTACHED TO THE VISIT.

3. A SUBSEQUENT SEPTEMBER 29 COMMENTARY IN THE SAME PAPER POINTS TO FURTHER AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN SCHLESINGER AND CHINESE LEADERS. ACCORDING TO HSIN WAN PAO, SCHLESINGER AGREED WITH PEKING'S CONTENTIONS THAT "THERE IS GREAT DISORDER UNDER HEAVEN," THERE IS THE THREAT OF WAR, AND APPEASEMENT CANNOT LEAD TO PEACE. HOWEVER, HE TOOK ISSUE WITH THE PRC VIEW THAT "THE SITUATION IS EXCELLENT" AND THAT WAR WILL SOONER OR LATER BREAK OUT. SCHLESINGER REPORTEDLY REITERATED THESE POINTS AT HIS FAREWELL DINNER SEPTEMBER 28. NCNA HAS MADE NO MENTION OF THE BANQUET, BUT DID NOTE SCHLESINGER'S SEPTEMBER 29 DEPARTURE FROM CHINA.
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